

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting an online survey having one or more questions, the method comprising:

maintaining a survey database, the database comprising the one or more questions and data identifying a type of input field for each question wherein the survey database comprises,

data display data for each of the one or more questions indicating how input fields for each of the one or more questions should be displayed, the data display data comprising a question field for each of the one or more questions comprising its respective question, a response type field for each of the one or more questions indicating what type of input field should be generated for its respective question, and a response parameter field for each of the one or more questions indicating how the input field corresponding to each respective question should be displayed,

data comprising sequence numbers wherein each of the one or more questions has a sequence number indicating a sequence for the one or more questions,

data comprising activation indicators wherein each of the one or more questions has an activation indicator indicating whether each of the one or more

questions should be included in the electronic survey and wherein the class file does not generate markup language for each of the one or more questions not to be included in the survey when executed, and

an application name corresponding to the electronic survey, the application name identifies a software application associated with the one or more questions, a form name, and a version number;

receiving a request for a network resource including the electronic survey, wherein the request is received at a web server computer maintaining the network resource from a web browser;

in response to the request, determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to the request, the previously compiled class file is separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and not the previously compiled class file;

in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized to respond to the request, creating an executable class file capable of generating markup language for displaying the questions and the input fields in a web browser, the executable class file is separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and the executable class file can be reused without modification, wherein creating the executable class file comprises,

determining which questions within the one or more questions are active based upon the activation indicators,

generating, based at least on the data display data, code for the executable class file required to display the active questions and response fields corresponding to the active questions, and

reordering the code for generating active questions based on the sequence numbers associated with the active questions;

generating the markup language by executing the class file; [[and]]

maintaining a response table, the response table comprising the form name, the form name identifies a version number of the survey, a survey table, the survey table includes a question field that stores the one or more questions and a response field that stores the response associated with the one or more questions;

returning the markup language as a response to the request for a network resource.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource or whether a web server operative to provide the network resource was reset since the last time the network resource was accessed.

4. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the web server computer is operative to receive response data corresponding to the input fields and to store the response data in a database.

10. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system for conducting an online survey having one or more questions, the system comprising:

a memory storage for maintaining a database; and

a processing unit coupled to the memory storage, wherein the processing unit is operative to:

maintain a survey database, the database comprising the one or more questions and data identifying a type of input field for each question wherein the survey database comprises,

data display data for each of the one or more questions indicating how input fields for each of the one or more questions should be displayed, the data display data comprising a question field for each of the one or more questions comprising its respective question, a response type field for each of the one or more questions indicating what type of input field should be generated for its respective question, and a response parameter field for each of the one or more

questions indicating how the input field corresponding to each respective question should be displayed,

data comprising sequence numbers wherein each of the one or more questions has a sequence number indicating a sequence for the one or more questions,

data comprising activation indicators wherein each of the one or more questions has an activation indicator indicating whether each of the one or more questions should be included in the electronic survey and wherein the class file does not generate markup language for each of the one or more questions not to be included in the survey when executed, and

an application name corresponding to the electronic survey, the application name identifies a software application associated with the one or more questions, a form name, and a version number;

maintain a response table, the response table comprising the form name, the form name identifies a version number of the survey, a survey table, the survey table includes a question field that stores the one or more questions and a response field that stores the response associated with the one or more questions;

receive a request for a network resource including the electronic survey, wherein the request is received at a web server computer maintaining the network resource from a web browser;

in response to the request, determine whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to the request, the previously compiled class file is

separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and not the previously compiled class file;

in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized to respond to the request, create an executable class file capable of generating markup language for displaying the questions and the input fields in a web browser, the executable class file is separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and the executable class file can be reused without modification, wherein the processing unit being operative to create the executable class file further comprises the processing unit being operative to,

determine which questions within the one or more questions are active based upon the activation indicators,

generate, based at least on the data display data, code for the executable class file required to display the active questions and response fields corresponding to the active questions, and

reorder the code for generating active questions based on the sequence numbers associated with the active questions;

generate the markup language by executing the class file; and

return the markup language as a response to the request for a network resource.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the processing unit operative to determine whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized

comprises the processing unit operative to determine whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the processing unit operative to determine whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises the processing unit operative to determine whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource or whether a web server operative to provide the network resource was reset since the last time the network resource was accessed.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 26, wherein the web server computer is operative to receive response data corresponding to the input fields and to store the response data in a database.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium which stores a set of instructions which when executed performs a method for conducting an online survey having one or more questions, the method executed by the set of instructions comprising:

maintaining a survey database, the database comprising the one or more questions and data identifying a type of input field for each question wherein the survey database comprises,

data display data for each of the one or more questions indicating how input fields for each of the one or more questions should be displayed, the data

display data comprising a question field for each of the one or more questions comprising its respective question, a response type field for each of the one or more questions indicating what type of input field should be generated for its respective question, and a response parameter field for each of the one or more questions indicating how the input field corresponding to each respective question should be displayed,

data comprising sequence numbers wherein each of the one or more questions has a sequence number indicating a sequence for the one or more questions,

data comprising activation indicators wherein each of the one or more questions has an activation indicator indicating whether each of the one or more questions should be included in the electronic survey and wherein the class file does not generate markup language for each of the one or more questions not to be included in the survey when executed, and

an application name corresponding to the electronic survey, the application name identifies a software application associated with the one or more questions, a form name, and a version number;

receiving a request for a network resource including the electronic survey, wherein the request is received at a web server computer maintaining the network resource from a web browser;

in response to the request, determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized to respond to the request, the previously compiled class file is

separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and not the previously compiled class file;

in response to determining that a previously compiled class file should not be utilized to respond to the request, creating an executable class file capable of generating markup language for displaying the questions and the input fields in a web browser, the executable class file is separate from the survey database such that altering the online survey only requires altering the survey database and the executable class file can be reused without modification, wherein creating the executable class file comprises,

determining which questions within the one or more questions are active based upon the activation indicators,

generating, based at least on the data display data, code for the executable class file required to display the active questions and response fields corresponding to the active questions, and

reordering the code for generating active questions based on the sequence numbers associated with the active questions;
generating the markup language by executing the class file; [[and]]

maintaining a response table, the response table comprising the form name, the form name identifies a version number of the survey, a survey table, the survey table includes a question field that stores the one or more questions and a response field that stores the response associated with the one or more questions;

returning the markup language as a response to the request for a network resource.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 30, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 30, wherein determining whether a previously compiled class file should be utilized comprises determining whether the request for the network resource was a first request for the network resource or whether a web server operative to provide the network resource was reset since the last time the network resource was accessed.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 30, wherein the web server computer is operative to receive response data corresponding to the input fields and to store the response data in a database.